

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/633,567

Examiner

Terry L Englund

Applicant(s)

HOSHI ET AL.

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2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt/TD (Aug 23, 2004) and Interview (Sep 13, 2004).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-9, and 11-18 (now renumbered as 1-16, respectively for printing purposes).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/081,186.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 09132004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER Date 09132004

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the applicants' representative Juan Carlos A. Marquez (Reg. No. 34,072) on Sep 12, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Divisional application data added to page 1 by the Aug 5, 2003 Preliminary Amendment:

changed "2002" to--2002, and issued as US Patent 6,639,454 on Oct 28, 2003--;

Claim 2, line 10: added --power-- prior to "supply";

line 11: added --power-- prior to "supply";

Claim 6, line 4: added --power-- after first occurrence of "first";

Claim 11, line 11: added --voltage-- after "supply";

line 13: added --voltage-- after "supply";

line 15: added --voltage-- after "supply";

Claim 13, line 4: added --first-- prior to "power"; and

Claim 15, line 4: added --power-- after first occurrence of "first".

The divisional data was updated to indicate the parent application has now been issued.

All of the claim changes address/correct inadvertent oversights by the examiner (e.g. they were not described in the previous Office Action). For example, prior to the above changes: 1) claims 2 and 6 cited a first "supply voltage" while claims 7-9 cited first, second, and/or third "power

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supply voltage” or “power supply voltages”; and 2) claim 11 cited a first “power supply”, claim 13 cited “power supply voltage”, claim 15 cited first “supply voltage”, and claims 16-18 cited first, second, and/or “power supply voltage” or “power supply voltages”. Therefore, the changes described above now ensure consistent labeling throughout the claims to minimize possible confusion.

RESPONSE TO TD/AMENDMENT

The terminal disclaimer (TD) and amendment submitted on Aug 23, 2004 were reviewed and considered with the following results:

The terminal disclaimer was approved, and it overcame the double patenting rejections of claims 5 and 14 with respect to U.S. Patent 6,639,454. Therefore, those rejections have been withdrawn.

Since the application data on page 1 has been updated, that objection has now been withdrawn.

The cancellation of claims 1 and 10 rendered their respective objections and rejections moot.

The amended claims overcame all of the claim objections, and their rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as described in the previous Office Action. Therefore, the objections to claims 2-9, and 11-18 have been withdrawn, as well as the 35 U.S.C. 112 related rejections of claims 5-9, and 14-18. Although various oversights were noted within the claims when they were carefully reviewed and considered, those were addressed/corrected by the Examiner’s Amendment described above.

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Since amended claims 7 and 16 now depend on claims 2 and 11, respectively, they have overcome their rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) with respect to Ooishi. Therefore, those prior art rejections have now been withdrawn. The reference of Ooishi does not clearly show or disclose a first circuit block with a plurality of registers.

There is now no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses the circuit device with first/second circuit blocks, and an interface circuit as recited within independent claims 2 and 11. More specifically, none of the references clearly shows or discloses a first circuit block having a plurality of registers, wherein the first circuit block has specific relationships to the second circuit block, interface circuit, and a power supply voltage as recited within claims 2 (upon which claims 3-9 depend) and 11 (upon which claims 12-18 depend). Since there is no motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure the first circuit block of the circuit device also includes a plurality of registers as recited, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

Claims 2-9, and 11-18 are allowed, and have been renumbered as claims 1-16, respectively. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claims 1 and 10.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743.

The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Terry L. Englund

13 September 2004